

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A method for filtering content, comprising:  
2 receiving at a content filtering router a packet containing a  
3 request for content, where said packet comprises a first destination  
4 Internet Protocol (IP) address of a content server that stores said  
5 content and a second destination IP address of said content filtering  
6 router;  
7 determining whether said first destination IP address is on a list  
8 of destination IP addresses to be filtered; and  
9 routing said packet to an output port on said content filtering  
10 router based on said first destination IP address and said list.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises  
2 ascertaining that said first IP address is on said list, and wherein said routing  
3 comprises directing said packet someplace other than said first destination IP  
4 address.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step comprises  
2 ascertaining through which output port said packet should be forwarded  
3 based on said first destination IP address and a routing table stored on said  
4 content filtering router.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said ascertaining utilizes a routing  
2 protocol to determine said output port.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said routing protocol is a Border  
2 Gateway Protocol (BGP).
- 1 6. The method of claim 3, wherein said routing table is a Border Gateway  
2 Protocol (BGP) table.

1 7. The method of claim 2, wherein said directing comprises sending said  
2 packet to an additional content filtering router, where said packet comprises a  
3 third destination IP address of said additional content filtering router.

1 8. The method of claim 2, wherein said directing comprises sending said  
2 packet to a service provider, such that said service provider can notify a user  
3 who made said request that said content has been blocked.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising, before said receiving,  
2 accepting said first destination IP address and an associated  
3 output port on said content filtering router; and  
4 storing said first destination IP address and said associated  
5 output port in said list on said content filtering router.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said storing comprises saving said first  
2 destination IP address and said associated output port in a routing table on  
3 said content filtering router.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises  
2 ascertaining that said first IP address is not on said list.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising removing said second  
2 destination IP address from said packet.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said routing comprises directing said  
2 packet toward said first destination IP address.

1 14. A method for filtering content, comprising:  
2 receiving at an Internet Protocol (IP) communications device a  
3 packet containing a request for content where said packet comprises a  
4 source IP address of a client computer from where the request

5 originated and a first destination IP address of a content server that  
6 stores said content;  
7 determining that said request is to be subjected to a content  
8 filtering service, based on said destination IP address;  
9 adding a second destination IP address of a content filtering  
10 router to said packet; and  
11 sending said packet toward said content filtering router.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising, prior to said adding,  
2 determining how many content filtering levels said request is to be subjected  
3 to.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said adding further comprises adding  
2 an additional destination IP address to said packet for each of said content  
3 filtering levels.

1 17. The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
2 receiving said content from said content server, when said first  
3 destination IP address was not on a routing table on said content  
4 filtering router; and  
5 sending said content to said source IP address.

1 18. The method of claim 14, further comprising, before said receiving,  
2 acquiring said source IP address and an indicator of whether  
3 said content filtering service is to be applied to said source IP address;  
4 storing said source IP address and said indicator.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein said acquiring further comprises  
2 obtaining a filtering level associated with said source IP address.

1 20. The method of claim 14, further comprising, before said receiving,

2                   acquiring a list of filtering levels and associated second  
3                   destination IP addresses, where each filtering level is associated with a  
4                   different second destination IP address of a different content filtering  
5                   router;  
6                   storing said list of filtering levels and associated second  
7                   destination IP addresses.

1   21.   A content filtering router, comprising:  
2           a Central Processing Unit (CPU);  
3           communications circuitry;  
4           input ports;  
5           output ports; and  
6           a memory containing:  
7               an operating system;  
8               communication procedures configured to receive a  
9               packet containing a request for content, where said packet  
10              comprises a first destination Internet Protocol (IP) address of a  
11              content server that stores said content and a second destination  
12              IP address of said content filtering router;  
13              a routing protocol comprising:  
14                  instructions for determining whether said first  
15                  destination IP address is on a list of destination IP  
16                  addresses to be filtered; and  
17                  instructions for routing said packet to one of said output  
18                  ports based on said first destination IP address and said list;  
19              and  
20              a routing table containing said list.

1   22.   A bidirectional Internet Protocol (IP) communications device,  
2           comprising:  
3           a Central Processing Unit (CPU);  
4           communications circuitry; and

5 input/output ports; and  
6 a memory containing:  
7 an operating system;  
8 communication procedures comprising:  
9 instructions for receiving a packet containing a  
10 request for content where said packet comprises an  
11 source IP address of a client computer from where the  
12 request originated and a first destination IP address of a  
13 content server that stores said content; and  
14 instructions for sending said packet toward a  
15 content filtering router;  
16 filtering procedures comprising:  
17 instructions for determining that said request is to  
18 be subjected to a content filtering service, based on said  
19 destination IP address; and  
20 instructions for adding a second destination IP  
21 address of said content filtering router to said packet  
22 before it is sent toward said content filtering router.

1 23. A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer  
2 system for content filtering, the computer program product comprising a  
3 computer readable storage and a computer program stored therein, the  
4 computer program comprising:  
5 instructions for receiving at an Internet Protocol (IP)  
6 communications device a packet containing a request for content  
7 where said packet comprises an source IP address of a client  
8 computer from where the request originated and a first destination IP  
9 address of a content server that stores said content;  
10 instructions for determining that said request is to be subjected  
11 to a content filtering service, based on said destination IP address;  
12 instructions for adding a second destination IP address of a  
13 content filtering router to said packet; and

14 instructions for sending said packet toward said content filtering  
15 router.

1 24. A system for content filtering, comprising an Internet Protocol (IP)  
2 communications device coupled between at least one client computer and at  
3 least one filtering router, where said IP communications device is configured  
4 to route requests for content received from said at least one client computer  
5 toward said at least one filtering router, and where said at least one filtering  
6 router is configured to route said requests for content someplace other than a  
7 content server that stores said content when said content server's IP address  
8 is on a list of addresses to be filtered, where said list is a routing table stored  
9 on said content filtering router.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein said at least one filtering router is  
2 further configured to route said requests for content to said content server  
3 when said content server's IP address is not on said list of addresses to be  
4 filtered.